

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude on this, Mexico's two hundred and first anniversary of independence, by vowing a renewed commitment between the United States and Mexico as both of our nations continue to confront the global issues of our time. I call upon my fellow Members of Congress to join me in celebrating Mexican Independence Day in honor of all the Mexican immigrants and descendants, not only in my district, but throughout this great nation and the world. Viva Mexico and may God and the Virgin of Guadalupe bless The United Mexican States and the United States of America.

TAIWAN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ITS FOUNDING

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, October 10th of this year marks the 100th anniversary of Taiwan, the Republic of China. Taiwan has been an important contributor towards economic and political security in Asia for decades, and continues to be a major trading partner with the United States. Indeed, Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States and the sixth largest agricultural market for products grown and produced here in the United States.

Taiwan continues to benefit from self-governance and free-elections, and its open society and democracy allows for innovation and growth that puts it on a competitive footing with the most powerful and largest countries in the world.

Taiwan and the United States uphold a peaceful affiliation through trade agreements and meaningful personal relationships. I enjoyed a trip to Taiwan when I was a state legislator, and it is a beautiful country with a vibrant culture.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan and President Ma Ying-jeou on its 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND GENEROSITY OF
LEROY AND TERESA ROBINSON

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true, dedicated leader in my state and in my local community of Montgomery County, North Carolina. Leroy Robinson grew up in Candor, North Carolina, just miles from my home. He graduated from what was then known as Candor High School in 1939, and went on to my alma mater of Wake Forest University. After proudly serving our nation in World War II, Robinson returned home to North Carolina and began working for Belk, a local family owned department store that began in my district in Monroe, North Carolina. After years as a local business and community leader, Robinson officially retired from Belk in 1988 after 37 years of service with the company, only to continue on as an advisor and counsel through 1995.

In 1995, Robinson and his late wife Teresa reached out to Wake Forest with hopes of setting up a scholarship fund for local students to attend Wake Forest, which is ranked 25th best university in the nation by US News and World Report. Through his hard work to open new doors to his own success in life, he now wanted to help pave a path for others just like him to achieve all that they can, with help from the community that raised them. It was Robinson's belief that if children had the opportunity to get a good education, they'd return home to Montgomery County and make their community a better place.

After my time at Wake Forest, I too returned home, working in textiles for over 27 years before I began teaching high school social studies at both West and East Montgomery High Schools. I have seen first-hand the benefits that the Robinson Scholarship has provided for both Montgomery County and Wake Forest University. The generosity of Leroy Robinson has continued to open new doors of opportunity for students throughout my community, and on behalf of the people of Montgomery County, I know that we will never have the proper words to adequately thank Leroy for all he has done, and continues to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is with complete admiration and appreciation that I rise today to speak of the kindness and generosity with which Leroy and Teresa Robinson have continued to bless our part of the world. His selflessness and dedication to helping those who come after him is a testament to the promise and goal that many of us embrace: to leave the world a better place than it was when we arrived. Leroy Robinson has served as a shining example of this generosity, and his gift continues to give to the students of my community.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in prayer for the health and well-being of Leroy Robinson, an asset to the people of Montgomery County, of North Carolina, and of our nation. Although sadly she is no longer with us, I also ask that we remember Teresa Robinson and her generous contributions as well.

HONORING U.S. MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL GIUSEPPE "JOE" LETO

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Giuseppe "Joe" Leto.

Joe was a resident of New Milford, Connecticut, where he attended Canterbury High School for four years. As his family and friends describe him, Joe was a passionate member of the school wrestling team who enjoyed spending time with his friends. Following his graduation, he went on to attend Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts to study business. In 1998, he decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Marine Corps. After going through boot camp on Paris Island, he reported to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for 16 weeks of training. Tragically, Joe died during a conditioning hike in his third week at Camp Lejeune at the age of 21.

Following Joe's death, his mother, Mrs. Mimi Leto established the Joe Leto Scholar-

ship for the students at Canterbury High School. When community support for the Leto family was expressed in an outpouring of flowers, Joe's former wrestling coach, Joe Wilson suggested that Mrs. Leto ask the community to participate in a fundraiser to support a scholarship in Joe's memory.

The community's response was enthusiastic. Though originally intended to be a one-time event, the "Run for Joe" has become a tradition in New Milford. Participants have raised a total of over \$150,000 in support of Joe's scholarship since the very first run. October 9, 2011 marks the 13th Annual "Run for Joe" to raise money for the Joe Leto Scholarship Fund. This year, in honor of the "Run for Joe" and in honor of Joe's memory, a flag will be flown at half staff on the day of the event at the Connecticut state Capitol.

In reflection of the premature loss of a young, promising U.S. Marine and the sense of community he has inspired in the town of New Milford, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of Lance Corporal Giuseppe Leto, and the contributions his family and community have made in his memory to the students at Canterbury High School.

PALESTINIAN BID FOR U.N.
RECOGNITION

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, to those who question the United States' expression of solidarity with Israel in the face of the recent Palestinian bid for U.N. recognition, the answer is that it is in America's interest to stand strong with its friend and ally.

There is a chorus of political interests arguing that U.N. recognition is precisely the game-changing move needed to push forward stalled Mid-East talks. But completely up-ending the long agreed-upon structure of direct negotiations would defeat all interests. For those Palestinians who desire peace, it would unfairly heighten expectations that the United Nations offers some new path to an independent state with defined territorial borders. Most alarmingly, U.N. recognition of Palestinian statehood would encourage Israel's traditional foes, as well as emerging new ones, to abandon their grudging acceptance of the direct negotiation paradigm in favor of a coordinated assault on Israel's interests and security. That, in turn, will put America's interests at risk.

U.S. support for Israel has never been more important than it is now. The winds of the Arab Spring blowing from Tunisia to Syria are dramatically altering the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the wider region. Our ally's familiar antagonists are seizing on the region's new populism to stir up anti-Israel sentiment. In recent days, Israeli diplomats had to be rescued (with U.S. help) from their embassy in Cairo when angry protesters breached the grounds. Iran is as belligerent as ever and its potential to pose an existential threat to Israel cannot be underestimated.

It is expected that countries like Iran would seek to hijack the sentiment of the Arab